



611

# HF Happenings

South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)



June  
2014

## ZS9HQ and the IARU HF Championships

**T**he call sign ZS9HQ was assigned to the SARL by ICASA and will be operated during the IARU HF championships. SARL President, Geoff Levey, ZS6C is inviting radio amateurs to join him. Please send an email to Geoff at [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za) with your call sign and contact details. He will contact you to discuss the operational schedule.

**"Mobile phone switched on and handheld transceiver switched on as well."**

## IARU HF Championships

**T**he objective is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands. No contest QSOS on 12, 17, 30 or 60 metres. On any band, a station may be worked once on Phone (in the Phone segment) and once on CW (in the CW segment).

The contest takes place on the second full weekend of July, beginning 12:00 UTC Saturday and ending 12:00 UTC Sunday - 12 and 13 July 2014. Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

The contest exchange - IARU member society HQ stations send signal report and official IARU member society abbreviation, e.g. ZS9HQ will send 59 SARL or 599 SARL. Members of the IARU Administrative Council and the three IARU regional Executive committees send "AC," "R1," "R2," and "R3" as appropriate, e.g. ZS4BS would send 59 R1. All others send signal report and ITU zone. For South Africa the ITU Zone is 57. A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO.



## June

27 - Schools close  
27 to 29 - Ham Radio 2014 in Friedrichshafen, Germany; Wildsfees, Kirkwood  
28 - Start of Ramadan  
28 and 29 - ARRL Field Day

## July

2 to 5 - Innibos Festival, Nelspruit  
4 to 13 - Oyster Festival, Knysna  
5 - Durban July  
9 to 12 - Bushveld festival, Ellisras  
11 - 80th birthday of my Mom  
11 and 12 - Crane Festival, Chrissiesmeer  
12 and 13 - IARU HF Championships; WRTC 2014  
12 and 13 - Bastille Festival, Franschhoek  
18 and 19 - Biltong Festival, Somerset West  
18 to 20 - Boat and Lifestyle Show, Durban  
19 - Winter QRP Contest  
21 - Schools open  
25 to 27 - Gauteng Motor Show, Brakpan  
26 and 27 - RSGB IOTA Contest  
28 - Eid-ul-Fitr

## WRTC 2014: Call Signs

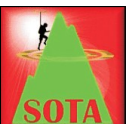
**W**RTC teams will be using 59 of the 75 call signs in the "1 x 1" special event block for the first call area, from K1A through to W1Z. Sixteen of the available 75 call signs will not be used, including the longest and shortest CW suffixes (J, Q, Y, E), suffixes that are frequently miscopied on CW (H) and suffixes not available in this call sign series (X). The teams will not know the call sign they will use until the referee hands them a sealed envelope just 15 minutes before the contest begins. This puts all teams at an equal starting point and helps maintain the anonymity of the teams.

Participation awards are available for anyone who works WRTC 2014 teams during the competition. Visit [www.wrtc2014.org/competition/participation-awards/](http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/participation-awards/)

## Winter QRP Contest

**T**he QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable / field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement. The Winter QRP Contest will be run from 12:00 UTC to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 19 July. It is a phone

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at [www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org)  
And more SOTA information can be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk) and [www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp](http://www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp)



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and CW contest using 5 watts (PEP) output or less and a station may be worked once per band per mode. There are no antenna restrictions.

The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. Please comply with the contest preferred segments as detailed in the general rules. It would be advantageous to use

the standard QRP calling frequencies as the starting point.

The exchange is a RS or RST report and your grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Please use the full 6 character grid locator. e.g. KG10xu. If the station's grid locator is unknown, then use some other means that identifies the station's location: E.g. the name of the closest town or city e.g. Middelburg (Eastern Cape), or 25 km NW of Bloemfontein. With DX contacts the locator information can be omitted, the RS(T) will suffice as the minimum required exchange as per the general rules

QSO Points - each contact counts 1 point. Prefix / Country multiplier - each South African call area 0 through 9 counts as a multiplier and each DXCC country worked counts as a multiplier. Station type multiplier - x 1 for home stations; x 2 for portable stations and x 3 for ultra light portable field station. The definitions listed in the general section of the SARL rules define the above stations types accurately.

A mobile station will be treated as a field station. A portable station not meeting the requirements as a field station will be treated as a home station. An ultra light portable field station must comply with all the field station criteria, but the operator must carry the entire station, antenna included to the operating site. The distance carried must not be less than 1 km.

Score = (QSO points) X (Prefix multiplier) X (Station multiplier). E-mailed logs submitted in electronic form will be appreciated. In order of preference, the following formats are requested - Using the provided Excel worksheet (available on SARL forum or direct from the contest manager); Send the logs in a text readable format i.e. Excel worksheet, ADIF or Cabrillo format. In all cases please fill out the normal minimum data fields: date, time, call sign of station worked, mode, RS(T) sent, exchange sent, RS(T) received, exchange received and optionally a comment field.

If the logging program does not have a field for "contest exchange" or the alternative contest exchange is too long and does not fit in the provided entry field, then log that exchange info in the comment field.

Logs shall be submitted by 26 July 2014 to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za). A photo(s) of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

### Amateur radio in the Cook Islands

A story in the Cook Island News links amateur radio to tourism  
The story says - Although there are millions of radio amateurs around the world, there are only seven in the Cook Islands - one in Tongareva, one on Aitutaki, and five on Rarotonga. Of the seven, only four are active - all on Rarotonga - yet those four amateurs have probably done as much to raise global awareness of the Cook Islands as a "destination" as all the commercial publicity!

How, you may ask! Three ways: most importantly they talk to people - thousands and thousands of them - all over the world; they send out postcards to confirm those chats; and they maintain web pages.

So how much impact do they have? The Cook Island Tourism Corporation has had over 60 000 "likes" on their Facebook page in the last two years.

Andy Duncan, call sign E51AND, an amateur living in Inave has had a web page up for only nine months and has 45 000 hits; Jim Ditchburn in Tupapa, E51JD has 221 420 hits and Victor Rivera E51CG has had an astounding 1,3 million hits on his web pages.

Read the full story at <http://www.cookislandsnews.com/features/weekend/item/47114-amateur-ham-radio-operators>

### African Islands

ZD9, Tristan Da Cunha And Gough Island. Paul, ZS1S, has announced on QRZ.com that he will be using the call sign ZD9ZS, and a well known UK (G3xxx) operator

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(ZD9 call sign will be announced in due course), will be visiting Tristan da Cunha in September/October 2014. They will be traveling to the island and return on board the South African Antarctic supply ship "SA Agulhas II". Look for more details to be announced in the coming weeks.

5N, Tanzania. Flavio, IW2NEF, will be active as 5H1NE (pending) from Zanzibar Island (AF-032) between 22 July and 6 August. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB only. QSL via IK2DUW.

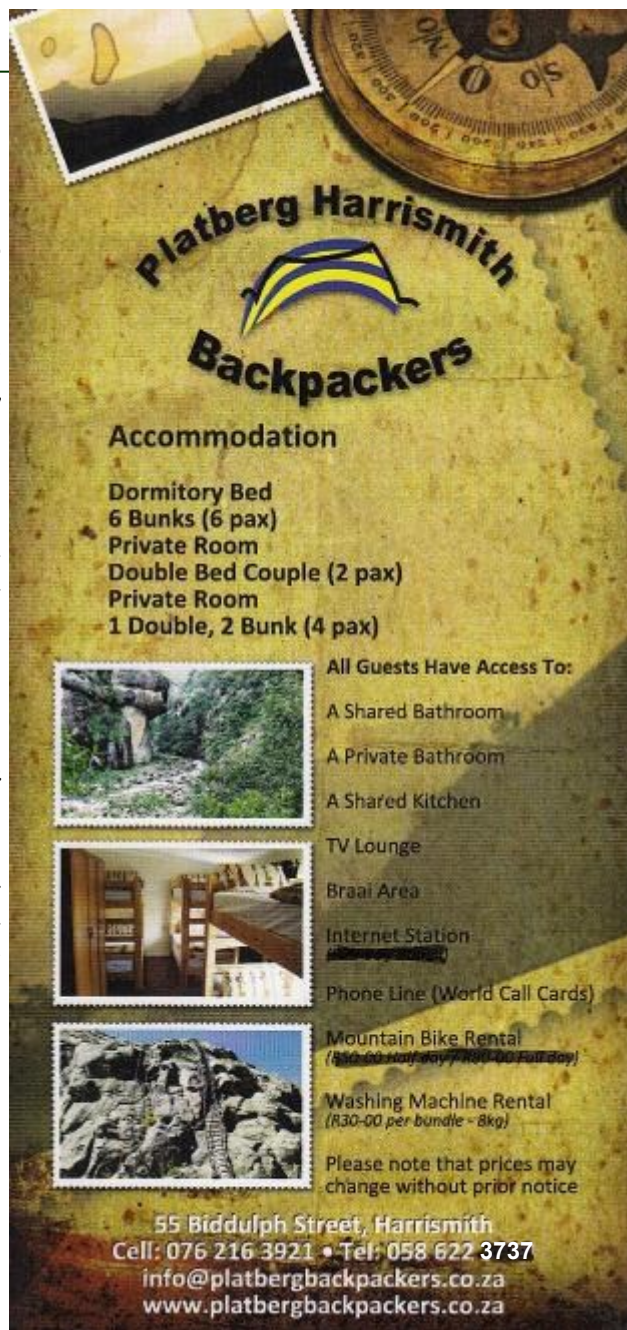
S7, Seychelles. Heli, DDOVR, and XYL Bigi, DE3BWR, will be active as S79VR from the Seychelles Islands (AF-024) between 3 and 30 November. Activity is planned from Mahe, Praslin and La Dique Islands. Operations will be holiday style on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 meters (on the IOTA frequencies) operating only QRP CW and QRO/QRP SSB. He mentions that he will make CW QSO (using his G-QRP-Club no 7073) in the QRP segments with 5 watts and SSB with 500 watts on all other bands if possible depending on the conditions. Heli will use an Elecraft KX3 with a modified Tokyo High Power HL-1.1 and KX1 for QRP into a Vertical, Single-Quad, Double-Zepp and a Currentsume antenna kit. QSL via DDOVR, direct or by the DARC Bureau.

5R, Madagascar. Nosy Be means "big island" in the Malagasy language and Nosy Be, not far from the mother island Madagascar, will be the next destination of the Mediterraneo International DX Club (MDXC) Team! Look for leader Antonio, IZ8CCW, and the co-leader Gabriele, I2V6W, to head-up a team of operators to be active as 5R8M from Nosy Be Island (AF-057), thanks from the help of a local friend, Michele, 5R8UI, between 20 October and 4 November.

Activity will take place during 16 days and 14 nights. According to their evaluations, they are confident to give a lot of DXers a chance to work this country (and IOTA) on the lower Bands, 30, 17 and 12 m and especially on the Digital modes. The 16 operators will be an international team from countries. Currently, the operators listed are - CW - Eric, ON7RN, Feri, YO5OED and Karl, OE3JAG; SSB - Ant, IZ8CCW (Leader), Michel, F5EOT, Steve, IZ5GST and Michele, IK5ZUI; RTTY - Gabriele, I2V6W (Co-Leader), Marco, IZ2GNW, YL Manu, IZ8IYL, Mario, IK4MTK and Henri, F1HRE. Pilot Stations - Don, N1DG (USA), Rino, IK7JTF (Europe) and Sergio, IK0FTA (6 m pilot). QSL Manager is Giuliano, IK2VUC, for direct or Bureau QSLs. However, there will be an OQRS available on the Web page below. LoTW files will be uploaded by the end of May 2015.

Activity will be on 160 - 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to have four stations on the air around the clock using dipoles, Inverted L, verticals and Spiderbeams. For more details and updates, visit the 5R8M Web page at <http://www.mdxc.org/5r8m>. The team is looking for sponsors and funds/donations.

EA8, Canary Islands. Members of the Union De Radioaficionados De Tenerife (Seccion S/C Laguna) will be active as EA8URT from Tenerife Island (AF-004) during the RSGB IOTA Contest (26 and 27 July) as a Multi-Op/Island entry. Operators mentioned are Francisco, EA8CSB, Jose, EA8CZT and Juan, EA8VJ. QSL via direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.



**Platberg Harrismith Backpackers**

**Accommodation**

- Dormitory Bed
- 6 Bunks (6 pax)
- Private Room
- Double Bed Couple (2 pax)
- Private Room
- 1 Double, 2 Bunk (4 pax)

**All Guests Have Access To:**

- A Shared Bathroom
- A Private Bathroom
- A Shared Kitchen
- TV Lounge
- Braai Area
- Internet Station
- Phone Line (World Call Cards)
- Mountain Bike Rental (R300.00 half day / R600.00 Full day)
- Washing Machine Rental (R30.00 per bundle - 8kg)

Please note that prices may change without prior notice

55 Biddulph Street, Harrismith  
 Cell: 076 216 3921 • Tel: 058 622 3737  
[info@platbergbackpackers.co.za](mailto:info@platbergbackpackers.co.za)  
[www.platbergbackpackers.co.za](http://www.platbergbackpackers.co.za)





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### African DX

6V, Senegal. Heinz, DO3MY, will be active as 6V1W from Point des Almadies, Dakar, between the months of July and September. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via his home call sign.

TY, Benin. Members of the Italian DXpedition Team (IDT) have announced their next DXpedition will be to Benin. They report on their IDT Web page: "We received the callsign for our DXpedition to Benin, TY1AA. Owing to working commitments of some members of our Team, we are not able, at the moment, to announce an exact date for the DXpedition. Therefore, the actual date of operation could vary somewhat with respect to the already announced date (20 to 30 November 2014)." Operators mentioned are Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA and Stefano, IK2HKT. Also listed but not confirmed are Alfeo, I1HJT, Mac, JA3USA and Gino, IK2RZP. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. Their suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1 826, 3 530, 7 025, 10 115, 14 030, 18 068, 21 030, 24 893 and 28 030 kHz

SSB - 3 780, 7 103, 14 270, 18 155, 21 310, 24 975 and 28 420 kHz

RTTY - 14 087 kHz; 6 m - 50 102 CW and 50 123 SSB

QSL via I2YSB, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available for direct QSL and LoTW at <http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline/>. For more details and updates, watch <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt>.

### West Coast DX Bulletin

**T**he legendary "West Coast DX Bulletin" by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, is now available for everyone to enjoy on-line. Every issue from Volume 1 number 1 (1 May 1968) up to and including the very last issue (18 July 1979) is - or will be by the end of August - available on the Northern California DX Club's website at <http://ncdxc.org/pages/wcdxb.html>



**O**n Thursday afternoon, 26 June, I landed at Kloten Airport at Zürich. Andy, HB9JOE, collected me and before driving through to Friedrichshafen, we decided to activate a SOTA summit. Andy selected Bachtek Kulm, HB/ZH-004. The road to the restaurant at the summit is closed on Saturdays and Sundays - you then walk or cycle the 4 km.

We used an IC-7000 with a LDG tuner running 30 watts into a vertical antenna. The mast is a 10 metre DX-Wire portable mast. The antenna has 5 radials of 4 metres in length (each radial) and the vertical is 13,1 metres wrapped around the mast.

Andy, HB9JOE, Eva, HB9FPM, and I each made the four contacts to obtain the summit points. Andy operated CW while Eva and I operated on phone. I worked Austria (Summit to Summit), the Czech Republic and Germany (1 Summit to Summit).





The two halls containing the flea market - you will find anything from a pin to a dead policeman here.

**ICOM**  
IC - 7900 Contest



Kuilfontein Guest Farm and Farm stall on the N1 at Springfontein, southern Free State

<http://www.accommodationspringfontein.co.za/>



# HF Happenings

HF\_Happenings-subscribe@yahooqgroups.com



## History this Week, week starting 23 June 14

- 1498 - The bristle toothbrush was invented in China
- 1797 - Charles Newbold patents first cast-iron plough. He can't sell it to farmers; they fear the effects of iron on the soil!
- 1812 - Napoleon's Grand Armée crosses the Neman River in an attempt to engage and defeat the Russian army
- 1842 - Dick King returns by ship to Port Natal after his epic 10 day 960 km horse ride to Grahamstown
- 1844 - Goodyear patents vulcanisation of rubber
- 1847 - New York and Boston linked by telegraph wires
- 1847 - First US postage stamps go on sale, 5c Franklin and 10c Washington
- 1919 - First advanced monoplane airliner flight, a Junkers F13
- 1929 - First colour TV demonstration in New York City
- 1936 - The Empire State Building emanates high definition TV-343 lines
- 1947 - Birth of Fleetwood Mac
- 1948 - The Berlin Airlift, a huge military operation by the Allied Forces to get food supplies to Berlin starts
- 1963 - The first demonstration of home video recorder at the BBC Studios in London
- 1982 - Himmy, a cat from Australia, weighs in at domestic cat record of 20,7 kg

*Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin*